



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Former care giver at an intermediate care facility convicted and sentenced for criminal abuse of a resident

Washington, D.C. - Cassandra Hargrove, a former employee of a District of Columbia intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities, has been sentenced for criminal abuse of a resident of that facility, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

Hargrove, also known as Cassandra Andrews, 40, of Washington, D.C., was found guilty of criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult and sentenced on November 21, 2007, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin. Judge Mitchell-Rankin sentenced Hargrove to 180 days in prison, with all but 15 days suspended, and two years of probation. Hargrove also was ordered to stay away from the intermediate care facility and the government's witnesses, to refrain from working with any vulnerable population, and to pay \$50 towards the Victims of Violent Crime compensation fund.

According to the government's evidence, on March 25, 2006, the victim was a resident of an intermediate care facility located in Northeast Washington, D.C. and operated by Individual Development, Inc. On that day, a co-worker observed the defendant become frustrated and angry with the victim when she sat on the floor of the residence, refusing to go to bed. When the co-worker asked the defendant to help the victim off the floor, the defendant stated, "I'm not gonna strain my back for her." The defendant then grabbed the victim under her arm and by the back of her shirt and dragged the victim across the floor.

In announcing the conviction and sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Investigator Jonathan Rich of the Office of the Inspector General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) for his investigation of the criminal abuse. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Zealand and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Dangkhua Nguyen of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case.

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